

ALTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health



and

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the year

1959

ALTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



Chairman of Council

Councillor A. G. Finnimore

Vice-Chairman of Council

Councillor A. N. Bisset

Public Health Committee

Chairman

Councillor E. T. Hutley

Members as at 31/12/59

Councillor A. N. Bisset

Councillor G. R. Slone

„ A. G. Finnimore

„ W. A. Stratford

„ Mrs. C. Kerridge

„ J. E. Watson

„ A. J. Puddick

Representatives on the Joint Slaughterhouse Committee :

Councillors Hutley, Puddick, Shipley and Stratford

Representatives on the Alton (No. 7)

District Health Sub-Committee :

Councillors Mrs. C. Harkham and Col. J. P. Archer-Shee, M.C.

Staff

Medical Officer of Health :

J. Coutts Milne, M.B., Ch.B.,
D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.
(Resigned 7.9.59)

R. L. Goodey, B.A., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
(Appointed 2.11.59)

Chief Public Health Inspector

and Meat and Food Inspector :

D. M. Ling, C.S.I.B., M.R.S.H.,
M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk :

M. G. Worthington

ALTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
HIGH STREET, ALTON.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMER, 1959.**

Introduction

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1959, drafted in accordance with the directions of the Minister of Health.

The estimated population (mid 1959) of the Urban District is 8,810. Vital statistics continue satisfactory, and there was a good response to the campaign for vaccination against poliomyelitis. The work of the department continues to increase, owing to this Mrs. G. Mayo was engaged, by the County Council in October on a part-time basis, as a clerical assistant in connection with County immunisation schemes.

In September Dr. Coutts Milne, the Medical Officer of Health, left to take up an appointment as Medical Officer of Health to Farnborough, Hartley Wintney and Fleet. Dr. Randall Martin acted as Interim Medical Officer of Health until November when I took up my appointment.

I am grateful to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their encouragement and help, to Mr. Ings, Clerk of the Council, to Mr. Ling, Chief Public Health Inspector, and to Mr. Worthington for their assistance. Also to officers of other departments of the Council for their help and co-operation.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

R. L. GOODEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members
of Alton Urban District Council.

Part 1

General Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1. General and Social.

Alton Urban District is situated in N.E. Hampshire on the main London-Winchester road. It comprises the town proper together with the outlying villages of Beech and Holybourne. In the days of Gilbert White in the late 18th century its population was about 2,500. It was chiefly noted for the manufacture of woollen clothing, which industry was largely carried on by the Quakers whose present meeting place in the town is the second oldest in England. Its main industry is now brewing. Light industry is well represented by clothing, artificial limb and instrument manufacturers. Some dairy, arable and pig farming is carried out in Beech and Holybourne.

2. Birth and Death Rate.

The number of live births in the area was 146, giving a rate per 1,000 population of 16.6. The rate for 1958 was 17.6, and for 1957, 18.6. The average rate for the five years 1952-56 was 15.7 and 17.6 for 1947-51. The rate of 16.6 when adjusted by the comparability factor of 1.01 gives an adjusted live birth rate of 16.8. This compares with a birth rate for England and Wales in 1959 of 16.5. Of live births 4.1% were illegitimate.

The total number of deaths was 114 giving a crude death rate per 1,000 population of 12.9. The comparability factor is 0.96 and this gives an adjusted rate of 12.4. The crude death rate for England and Wales for 1959 was 11.6. It should be emphasised that with the comparatively small numbers involved in the Urban District many of these figures are not statistically significant and conclusions drawn from them may be misleading.

3. Infant Mortality Rate.

There were 4 infant deaths (death under 1 year), two of these occurred during the first week of life. The infant mortality rate of 27.4 compares with that of England and Wales for 1959 of 22.0. No still births were recorded.

Maternal Mortality.

One death was recorded as being associated with childbirth, giving a rate per 1000 total live and stillbirths of 6.8.

4. Causes of Death.

The main causes of death were cancer, 20 cases, diseases of the heart and arteries, 38 cases, vascular lesions of the nervous system, 14 cases. These accounted for nearly three quarters of deaths. Throughout England and Wales these groups of diseases are gradually increasing. They are usually considered as diseases of the elderly, and with the increasing number of elderly persons

in the community the number of deaths ascribed to these causes will rise concurrently.

In 1958 cancer of the lung registered the highest increase of cancer of any site. There were four cases reported in Alton in 1959. It is well known and generally accepted that lung cancer is associated with cigarette smoking. Unfortunately, so strong is the power of habit, and so great the influence of advertisement, that knowledge of the facts does not often result in the obvious action being taken by the individual. In 1958 there were 19,280 deaths due to cancer of the lung in England and Wales.

Diseases of the heart and arteries may be considered part of the usual physiological process of ageing. However, their incidence may be reduced and their onset postponed by a counsel of moderation. Moderation in diet so that less weight has to be moved by a body whose physical powers are decreasing (it is possible that in the diet the proportion of animal fats can be reduced with advantage). Moderation in physical activity, not drastic reduction, with advancing age, but continuation of regular non-violent exercise is a further factor to be considered.

5. Infectious Disease.

(a) General.

The number of notifications received continues to be small, apart from measles.

(b) Measles.

This is a disease which fluctuates biennially in its incidence. Infants and children under 5 years together now constitute about half the cases notified. There were in all 104 cases notified in the area, equally divided between males and females. All cases occurred in the last two quarters of the year.

(c) Whooping Cough.

There were 13 cases notified in 1959. Decline in the incidence of this disease is associated with the protection afforded by immunisation. Notifications were spread roughly over the first nine months of the year.

(d) Scarlet Fever.

Three cases, all notified in the second quarter, were reported.

(e) Diphtheria.

There have been no cases of diphtheria reported in the area for 13 years.

(f) Poliomyelitis.

No cases have been reported since 1955.

(g) Pneumonia

4 Cases were notified.

(h) Food Poisoning.

One case was reported in the first quarter of the year. This was a patient in a local hospital. The origin of the infection, due to salmonella typhi-murium, is unknown. All contacts were negative.

(i) Dysentery.

There were no cases notified in 1959. This does not necessarily mean no cases occurred but there is little question that, as with Food Poisoning, a large proportion of cases are untreated and consequently are not notified.

(j) Tuberculosis.

3 New cases of tuberculosis were reported. All were pulmonary cases.

6. Prophylactic Immunisation Schemes.

The decline in diphtheria, whooping cough and now poliomyelitis is associated with the immunisation campaigns which have been conducted against these diseases. Diphtheria is of course the disease which shows the greatest decrease. In the decade 1933-42 an average of 55,000 cases were notified annually, in 1948, 3,575, in 1953, 240, and in 1958 only 80 in the whole of England and Wales. There have been no new cases in the town of Alton for the last twelve years. It is now becoming generally accepted by mothers that their children should be immunised during the first year, either at the local clinic or by their own doctor. In order to ensure that parents understand the need for this protection the Health visitor uses her powers of persuasion, and the Public Health Department contacts the child's parents at the age of four months and again at the ages of 5 to 10 years. To maintain an adequate level of immunity in the general population 75% of infants under one year should be immunised before their first birthday: in the Alton Urban area 56.2% of children in that age group were immunised in 1959.

From the table below, the number of children in the various age groups who received protection in 1959 can be seen :—

Number of children who completed a course of primary immunisation and who received reinforcing injections.

Ages	Diph. only		Diph.&W/cgh		W/cgh. only		Triple		Diph. & Tetanus
	Primary	Booster	Primary	Booster	Primary	Booster	Primary	Booster	
Under 1	1	—	33	—	—	—	48	—	—
1—4	2	2	2	—	—	—	8	1	—
5—14	9	16	—	5	—	—	—	13	—
Total	12	18	35	5	—	—	56	14	—

Immunisation against whooping cough is usually, although not always, carried out at the same time as immunisation against diphtheria, either by the use of a mixed diphtheria/whooping cough antigen or by the triple antigen which also provides protection against tetanus. Throughout the country as a whole there has been a considerable fall in the notifications of whooping cough, although the incidence appears to fluctuate erratically from year to year. The fatality ratio for 1958 in the country was the lowest ever recorded. Whooping cough, apart from the immediate distressing effects, can have serious later results and most parents recognise the value of the protection afforded by immunisation. For both diphtheria and whooping cough it is advisable that "booster" doses should be given at the ages of 5 and 10 years. From the table below the number of children in the town protected in the various age groups under 15 years may be ascertained :—

Number of children at 31.12.59 who had completed a course of immunisation at any time between 1.1.45 and 31.12.59.

Age at 31.12.59. i.e. born in year	Under 1 1959	1—4 1955—58	5—9 1949—53	10—14 1945—49	Total under 15 years
Last complete course of inject- ions 1955-59	10	396	425	310	1141
1954 or earlier	—	—	156	489	645
Totals	10	396	581	799	1786

7. Smallpox Vaccination.

Alton is a town in close proximity to military camps at Bordon and Longmoor. It receives visitors from many parts of the world. For some types of employment in later life vaccination is essential, this is best carried out in infancy. A table showing the number of persons vaccinated is given below. Primary vaccination in the first year expressed as a percentage of live births recorded in 1959 was 58.9, the County estimate for this area was 51.3. In Hampshire 65.6% of births in 1959 were vaccinated

Smallpox Vaccinations

Age at which vaccinated	Primary Vaccinations	Revaccinations
Under 1 year	75	—
1—4 years	6	1
5—14 years	2	2
15 years and over	3	25
Total	86	28

8. Vaccinations against Poliomyelitis.

In 1959 vaccination against poliomyelitis was available to all persons between the ages of 6 months and 25 years, to all expectant mothers and to persons at especial risk. Two injections are given with an interval of approximately one month, followed by a third or "booster" injection not less than seven months after the second. Vaccine is of Canadian, American or British manufacture.

At the moment the use of an oral vaccine is being tested in certain parts of the country, it is possible that at some time in the future this method of conferring protection may replace injection. This is not yet generally possible. These injections are practically painless and have no ill effects. Posters and advertisements in the town recommend that all persons eligible who have not registered should do so, either with their own doctor or with the Public Health Department.

Poliomyelitis Vaccinations, 1959.

	Completed 2 injections	Completed 3 injections
Children born in years 1943-59	1129	1032
Adults born 1933-42 and special categories	534	367
Expectant mothers	68	51
Totals	1731	1450

9. Accidents.

(a) Road Accidents.

This problem is increasing. In 1959 the injury rate for the whole of Hampshire was 12% greater than for 1958. Apart from "roadworthiness" tests for vehicles, better lighting and the elimination of dangerous hazards, such as unsuitable parking places and narrow bends in roads, the main method of prevention must still be educational. Firstly the inculcation of good manners on the road in drivers, and secondly road sense in pedestrians particularly in children. Figures for road accidents in Alton town area are not directly available. There were 5 deaths resulting from road accidents in the surrounding area in 1959, one of a child aged 2. When it is remembered that every day 15 people are killed on the roads in England and Wales the size of the problem can be envisaged. I am glad to say that Alton U.D.C. has a Road Safety Committee.

(b) Accidents in the Home.

These particularly affect children and old persons, and prevention of such accidents is best obtained by public education. With regard to young persons Dr. J. Mackintosh, Director of

Education and Training for W.H.O. wrote in “World Health ” May/June, 1960 in an appropriately worded article (Accidents are not Accidental):—

“ Education must be directed to the parents of young children and to teachers for the school age groups. The general approach aims at showing the hazards and then demonstrating the precautions that should be taken. Obvious examples are the protection of open fires of every kind . . . a constant watch on the safety of electricity and gas fittings, and the strict placing of all poisonous substances under lock and key.”
For old persons the chief dangers are burns and falls.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Poole, the Secretary of Alton Hospital, I have been provided with a list of persons from the Alton Urban District area who were treated in the Casualty Department of the General Hospital in 1959, the number is 159. These figures, which are given below, illustrate in a graphic manner the truth of Dr. Mackintosh’s remarks.

Accidents in the Home, 1959.

Approx % of population at age group	Age	Cuts		Burns & Scalds		Falls		Miscell- aneous		Total
		m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	
8%	0-4	2	3	10	2	10	7	11	3	48
15%	5-14	6	3	3	6	7	2	9	4	40
66%	15-64	2	8	4	9	3	13	5	15	59
11%	65 +	—	—	—	2	2	4	—	4	12
Total		10	14	17	19	22	26	25	26	159
		24		36		48		51		

Children under 4, approximately 8% of the population, accounted for one third of the burns and scalds. Under the heading “miscellaneous” are included in that 0-4 age group, children who swallowed sleeping tablets, dogs worm powder, cleaning fluid and one child who chewed a razor blade.

In Alton in 1959 there were two deaths of adults following burns from unguarded fires, and one death from asphyxia due to a defective gas water heater.

The prevention of all such accidents is obvious. Elderly people are particularly liable to falls. These may be prevented to some extent by attention to loose floor coverings, highly polished floors and worn or uneven steps. The provision of a stair rail where necessary, and adequate lighting is also a safety factor.

10. National Assistance Act, 1948.

No action was required under section 47 of the Act regarding removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

11. Factories.

Information concerning factories will be found in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector, and also in the appendices as required by the Ministry of Health.

12. Water Supply, Sewerage, Sewage Disposal and Public Cleansing.

I am indebted to Mr. F. T. Cornhill, M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.H., Engineer & Surveyor for the following report :—

Water Supply.

The exceptionally dry summer and the building of more houses, caused a marked increase in the water used, the average daily consumption being 509,984 gallons, the first time this figure has been above the half million level. Underground water levels were reduced considerably by the drought. A regular supply of water, of a high standard of purity, continued to be provided to the consumers.

New mains were laid to three new housing estates.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The quantity of sewage dealt with at the Sewage Disposal Works shewed a marked increase, the total for the year amounting to 296 million gallons.

Public Cleansing.

The quantity of refuse in the weekly collection continued to increase with the building of new properties. A new four wheel drive tractor shovel was put into use at the Controlled Tip, and this machine enabled the tip face to be covered with soil much more efficiently. This probably accounted for the fact that, in spite of the hot summer, there was very little fly nuisance.

13. Swimming Baths.

There are no public swimming baths in Alton.

14. Health Education.

There is no doubt that further improvement in community health is dependent on progress in health education. The incidence of infectious diseases has dramatically declined during the last few decades. Tuberculosis is now decreasing. The position of diseases spread through contaminated food is less satisfactory. The main problem is to ensure firstly that people know the

facilities available for healthy living, secondly that they should make use of these facilities, and as a matter of habit and social convention maintain high standards as individuals.

In Alton the Health Visitors are chiefly responsible for health education of mothers and young children both by home visits and at clinics. Health education is carried out in schools by special talks to school leavers, and a Health Education Officer has now been appointed by Hampshire County Council who will be available in this area.

Full use is made of notice boards and shops for posters from the Central Council of Health Education. These concern food hygiene, the prevention of the fly nuisance, the facilities available for vaccination against poliomyelitis, and similar matters of public interest. Advertisements in the local press also give information about public sessions for vaccination against poliomyelitis.

By these methods it is considered that a public which is well informed will expect higher standards in community health, and accept any changes in habit which they may involve.

PROVISIONS OF GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Devolution of Health Functions.

On the 1st April, 1953, there came into operation a scheme of devolution of Health functions to existing District Health Sub-Committees. In this area, the No. 7 (Alton District Health Sub-Committee comprises the areas of the Alton Rural District Council and Urban District Council, to which sub-committee both Councils nominate members. Among the resolutions made were :—

“In order to make the fullest possible use of local knowledge and to widen interest there be devolved upon the District Health Sub-Committee as far as possible responsibility for the supervision of the Health Services in the area ; in particular services operating under Section 22 (Care of Mothers and Young Children), Section 24 (Health Visiting), Section 26 (Vaccination) and Section 28 (Prevention of illness, care and aftercare, so far as that section does not relate to tuberculosis) of the National Health Service Act, 1946, as amended, provided that those functions are exercised in such a way as to conform with the existing scheme.”

Ambulance Facilities.

The Ambulance Service is conducted by the County Council who supply monthly details of journeys to the Public Health Committee. The ambulances for the area are stationed at Alton.

Applications for the use of ambulances are made to:—

The Aldershot Ambulance Station
(Telephone : Aldershot 2244)

Child Welfare.

A Child Welfare Clinic is held every Tuesday afternoon from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Assembly Rooms, Alton. This centre is for the attendance of mothers and babies, and children under five. Activities at the clinic, at which a doctor and nurse attend, include advice on feeding and child management, immunisation, weighing and the distribution of welfare foods and certain Medicaments.

Consequent upon the closure of the Ministry of Food office, National Welfare Food Distribution Centres were established as follows :—

Alton	W.V.S. Office, 25 High Street	Tuesday & Friday 10-12 & 2-4
	Child Welfare Centre, Assembly Rooms	Tuesday 2-4
Holybourne	Taylor's Stores	Shop hours

Health Visiting.

The Health Visitor for Alton is Mrs. J. E. Morrow, 13, Whitedown, Alton, (Telephone Alton 2097).

A re-arrangement of Health Visiting Districts has taken place for 1960. Miss M. C. Tate, "Spadgers," Gascoigne Lane, Ropley, (Telephone Ropley 3237), taking over the west part of Alton Urban District including the village of Beech.

Home Help Service.

A scheme of domestic help is available. The helpers are experienced women carefully chosen for their suitability for the work. They will run the home carefully, their job being to take over the housewife's work.

Home Helps are available for the following types of cases :— when the housewife is sick or has to have an operation ; when a new baby is expected : when several members of a household are ill at one time ; and to give help to the elderly and infirm.

Application for a Home Help, accompanied by a medical certificate, should be made to the District Organiser. The charge depends on the hours worked and the income of the family after certain allowances have been made.

Division VI includes the Urban District of Alton and the Divisional Organiser now has her office at the Town Hall, Petersfield (Telephone : Petersfield 771/773), to whom application should be made for a Home Help.

Laboratory Facilities.

Bacteriological examinations of clinical matter, (sputum, swabs, etc.) and water, milk and foodstuffs are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester.

Chemical analyses of water, sewage, milk and other samples are carried out by arrangement with the Public Analyst, Southampton.

Thanks are expressed to the Director of Public Health Laboratory Service and the Public Analyst, Southampton, for their ready advice and assistance granted during the year.

Midwifery and Home Nursing.

These services are administered as follows :—

DISTRICT SERVED	NURSE	SERVICE GIVEN
Alton	Mrs. M. A. Staples, S.R.N., S.C.M., GAS/AIR, Chawton, Alton	Midwifery and general Nursing

QUALIFICATIONS: S.R.N. State Registered Nurse; S.C.M. State Certified Midwife ; Gas/Air, Gas and Air Analgesia Certificate.

Relief duties to cover holidays, sickness or emergency calls are undertaken by neighbouring nurse midwives.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

A clinic is held every Thursday at 2 p.m. at Alton General Hospital.

The Medical Officers attending the Alton Clinics at the end of the year :—

1st Thursday	Dr. W. S. Larcombe and Dr. P. Shortt (at 2.30 p.m.)
2nd Thursday	Dr. T. C. Wilson
3rd Thursday	Dr. H. E. Larcombe
4th Thursday	Mr. A. F. Goode

School Health Services.

Clinics are held as follows :—

Orthopaedic	Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital, Alton
Ear, nose and throat	Alton General Hospital
Dental	At Schools
Ophthalmic and orthoptic	Alton General Hospital
Child guidance	Health Centre, Winchester
Speech Therapy	Alton General Hospital

Tuberculosis.

Clinics are held at Aldershot, Basingstoke and Winchester, whilst sanatoria are available at Bishopstoke, Chandler's Ford, Liphook and Alton (Morland Hall [The Henry Gauvain Hospital] and Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital).

Venereal Diseases.

Clinics are held at Aldershot and Winchester.

Area Welfare Officer.

The Area Welfare Officer is Mr. A. C. Wood, whose office is at 14 King George Avenue, Petersfield (Telephone Petersfield 1199 - mornings only).

Part II
(Medical Statistics)

Table 1—General Statistics

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	4085
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£118,737
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£490
Population	...	...	...	(mid 1959)	8810
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	2856

Table 2—Live Births.

				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	76	64	140
Illegitimate	...	...	...	2	4	6
				—	—	—
			Total	78	68	146
Live birth rate per 1000 of estimated population, Alton	...					16.6
Live birth rate per 1000 estimated population,						
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	16.5
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of Total Live Births	...					4.1

Table 3—Still Births.

				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	0	0	0
Illegitimate	...	...	...	0	0	0
				—	—	—
			Total	0	0	0
Still birth rate per 1000 live births	...			...	...	nil
Total live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	146

Table 4—Deaths (from all causes)

	Male	Female	Total	
	50	64	114	
Death rate per 100 estimated population, Alton	...	...	...	12.9
Death rate per 1000 estimated population, England and				
and Wales	...	...	...	11.6

Table 5—Infant Mortality (details of infants under one year of age)

				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	3	1	4
Illegitimate	...	...	...	0	0	0
				—	—	—
			Total	3	1	4
Infant mortality per 1000 live births	...	...	...			27.4
(Infant mortality per 1000 live births, England and Wales)						22.0
Legitimate infant mortality per 1000 legitimate live births						28.6
Illegitimate infant mortality per 1000 illegitimate live births						nil

Table 6—Neo-natal Mortality.

				Male	Female	Total
Death of infants under 4 weeks of age	1			1	1	2
Maternal Deaths including abortions	—				1	1
Neo-Natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births)	...	...	...	...	...	13.7
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live births)	...	...	...	...	...	13.7
Maternal mortality rate per 1000 live and still births	...					6.8
Peri-natal mortality rate (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1000 total live and stillbirths)						13.7

Table 7—Causes of Death.

	Diseases	Male	Female	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	0	0
2	Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
3	Syphilitic disease	0	0	0
4	Diphtheria	0	0	0
5	Whooping Cough	0	0	0
6	Meningococcal infections	0	0	0
7	Acute poliomyelitis	0	0	0
8	Measles	0	0	0
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	0	0	0
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	2	2	4
11	„ „ lung and bronchus ..	2	2	4
12	„ „ breast	0	2	2
13	„ „ uterus	0	0	0
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	7	10
15	Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	0	0	0
16	Diabetes	0	1	1
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	5	9	14
18	Coronary disease, angina	9	12	21
19	Hypertension with heart disease ..	2	1	3
20	Other heart diseases	3	4	7
21	Other circulatory diseases	2	5	7
22	Influenza	1	2	3
23	Pneumonia	5	5	10
24	Bronchitis	3	0	3
25	Other diseases of respiratory system ..	1	1	2
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	0	0	0
27	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ..	0	1	1
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	1	3
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	0	1
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion ..	0	1	1
31	Congenital malformations	0	0	0
32	Other defined and ill-defined causes ..	8	5	13
33	Motor vehicle accidents	0	0	0
34	All other accidents	1	3	4
35	Suicide	0	0	0
36	Homicide and operations of war ..	0	0	0
	All causes	50	64	114

Table 8—Deaths according to ages.

Age group	Males	Females	Total
Under 1 ..	3	1	4
1—9 ..	3	1	4
10—19 ..	0	0	0
20—29 ..	1	1	2
30—39 ..	2	1	3
40—49 ..	3	5	8
50—59 ..	7	8	15
60—69 ..	9	8	17
70—79 ..	7	14	21
80—89 ..	14	19	33
90—99 ..	1	6	7
	50	64	114

Table 9—Number of Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the last 4 years

Disease	1956	1957	1958	1959
Scarlet Fever	6	2	0	3
Whooping Cough	3	8	28	13
Measles	11	48	20	104
Acute Pneumonia	9	7	13	4
Food Poisoning	0	1	0	1
Dysentery	0	1	0	0
Erysipelas	1	2	2	0
Totals	30	69	63	125

Table 10—Tuberculosis (details of new cases for the past 5 years)

Pulmonary	{ Male	3	5	1	3	2
	{ Female	4	2	1	0	1
Non-Pulmonary	{ Male	0	0	0	0	0
	{ Female	0	1	0	0	0
		7	8	2	3	3

ALTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Public Health Inspector for the year ended 31st December, 1959

To the Chairman and Members of the
Alton Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit herewith my Report for the year 1959 on the Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

The clearance of substandard dwellings proceeded satisfactorily and there is every hope that the programme will be completed by the end of next year. Some difficulty however, is being experienced in finding accommodation for the elderly, near the centre of the town and I look forward to the provision of more flats for aged persons in the Victoria Road East area.

It is interesting to record that the percentage of bovines found to be affected with tuberculosis at the slaughterhouses has dropped from 18.28% in 1955 to 0.30% for this year. This is undoubtedly due to the effect of Hampshire becoming an Attested Area. The percentage of pigs with tuberculosis is reduced to 0.58%, being one half the average for the previous four years.

The increase in the number of Broiler plants, for the rapid production of chicken meat has caused anxiety to local authorities up and down the country, but so far we in Alton are devoid of those worries. The only chicken slaughterhouse in the town closed down at the end of the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Meat.

The slaughterhouse at Kent Lane was used on isolated occasions only during the year but the Amery Street premises continues to satisfy the requirements of the local traders as well as the wholesale trade. The quality of food animals dealt with remained high but it was noted that sheep and lambs bought in Oxfordshire were severely affected with *Echinococcus veterinorum*. This is the cystic form of the parasite *Iaenia echinococcus* which finds a habitat in the intestine of the dog.

The total weight of meat and offal condemned as unfit for human consumption amounted to 5 tons 10 cwts 3 qts 23 lb.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	202	664	219	4863	10152
Number Inspected ..	186	661	219	4842	10115
All diseases except T.B. and cysticerci. Whole car- cases condemned	1	5	3	3	66
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	44	30	2	316	464
Percentage of the number inspected infected with disease other than T.B. and cysticerci	24.11	5.29	2.33	6.59	5.23
Tuberculosis only : Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	—	2	—	—	59
Percentage of the number inspected infected with T.B.	—	0.30	—	—	0.58
Cysticercosis Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	1	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ..	1	—	—	—	—
Generalized and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

Return of Diseases for which whole Carcases were condemned

Disease	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Abscess	—	—	—	—	12	12
Emaciation	—	—	—	2	8	10
Fever	—	—	—	—	14	14
Immaturity	—	—	1	—	—	1
Jaundice	—	—	1	—	2	3
Johne's disease	—	1	—	—	—	1
Moribund	—	—	—	—	6	6
Oedema	—	—	—	1	9	10
Pyæmia	—	—	1	—	—	1
Septicæmia	1	4	—	—	12	17
Uraemia	—	—	—	—	3	3
	1	5	3	3	66	78

Return of Diseases for which organs and part Carcasses were condemned

Disease	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Head :						
Abscess	1	—	—	—	6	7
Tuberculosis	—	1	—	—	59	60
Heart :						
Cysticercus bovis	1	—	—	—	—	1
Echinococcus cysts	—	—	—	239	—	239
Pericarditis	—	—	1	—	54	55
Lungs :						
Echinococcus cysts	—	—	—	—	298	298
Pneumonia	2	2	1	—	72	77
Strongylus rufescens	—	—	—	18	—	18
Tuberculosis	—	1	—	—	—	1
Livers :						
Abscess	12	2	—	1	6	21
Ascarides	—	—	—	—	27	27
Cavernous Angioma	—	20	—	—	—	20
Cirrhosis	7	—	—	—	29	36
Distomatosis	19	—	—	51	—	70
Echinococcus cysts	1	—	—	—	203	204
Fatty degeneration	—	2	—	—	—	2
Hepatitis	2	2	1	5	36	46
Melanosis	—	1	—	—	—	1
Strongylus rufescens.. ..	—	—	—	8	—	8
Tenuicolis cysts	—	—	—	1	2	3
Tuberculosis	—	1	—	—	—	1
Kidneys						
Nephritis	—	—	—	—	23	23
Spleen :						
Infarcts	—	—	—	—	2	2
Part Carcasses :						
Abscess	—	—	—	—	6	6
Bruising	—	—	—	—	49	49
Fever	4	2	—	—	24	30
Tuberculosis	—	1	—	—	—	1
Urticaria	—	—	—	—	2	2

Chicken.

The Chicken slaughterhouse dealt with 10,239 birds during the period 1st January, 1959 up to its closure in December of that year and it was necessary to condemn 190 chicken as unfit for human consumption.

The offal and refuse were removed at frequent regular occasions and no contravention of the Food Hygiene Regulations was recorded.

Food Condemned other than at the Slaughterhouse

Meat		Offal		Fish		Tinned Food	
lbs.	ozs.	lbs.	ozs.	lbs.	ozs.	lbs.	ozs.
135	0	46	0	35	8	443	3

I am pleased to report that no seizure of diseased meat or other food has been necessary during the year.

Food Adulteration.

This section of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 is operated by the County Council, and I am much obliged to Mr. J. S. Preston, Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, for the following details of samples taken during the year ended 31st March, 1960, within this area—

1. Milk Samples.

26 samples of milk, including five of Channel Islands and two of hot milk, were obtained and were satisfactory, with the exception of the last two. These were taken at separate cafés and were found to contain added water, the amounts being 11 per cent and 4 per cent. respectively. In both cases the water appeared to have resulted from condensation which had occurred during the heating of the milk by means of steam injection. In common with a number of other samples procured in other areas, and which showed adulteration due to similar cause, the proprietors of the cafés were cautioned, as the discrepancies were considered to have arisen inadvertently.

2. Miscellaneous articles.

Of the 27 articles other than milk, five were the subject of adverse report as follows:—

(a) **Bread and butter**—fat consisted of margarine. This sample was obtained at a café, but there was reason to accept the explanation put forward by the proprietor that one of his assistants had mistakenly spread the bread with margarine instead of butter, in spite of his precise instructions to the contrary. A caution was issued in this case.

(b) **Double cream.** (Three samples)—deficient of fat. These samples were from different producers and were in cartons bearing the description “Double Cream”, which requires a minimum fat content of 48 per cent. Inquiries revealed that the cartons bearing the description applied to the cream had been obtained from a firm of dairy equipment suppliers, without the vendors of the cream appreciating that the words “Double Cream” denoted a higher standard.

The samples were, in fact, well above the standard for ordinary cream and fell little short of that for double cream. The explanation put forward appeared to be genuine and in the circumstances the vendors were cautioned.

The attention of the firm who had supplied the cartons was also drawn to the position, and they agreed in future to supply cartons bearing only the word “Cream”, unless the description “Double Cream” were specifically ordered.

(c) **Minced Beef.**—Deficient of meat. This sample was reported as deficient of the amount of meat required under the

description “Minced Beef”, not including reference to the inclusion of gravy. The matter was the subject of further investigation in Alton Rural District, as the result of which the firm responsible agreed to amend the label supplied with their product.

3. **General.**

It should again be mentioned that many of the products in the Alton Urban District are subject to checks in other areas. This applies particularly to pre-packed articles and in certain cases to milk received from dairies outside the immediate locality.

Milk Supplies.

Distribution of milk within the area is carried out by four Retailers in addition to one Producer/Retailer who sells Raw Tuberculin Tested (Farm Bottled) from shop premises.

Licences issued under the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulation, 1949—

Dealers’ Licences to use the designation	
“ Pasteurised ”	6
Supplementary Licences to use the designation	
“ Pasteurised ”	1
Supplementary Licences to use the designation	
“ Sterilised ”	1

Licences issued under the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949—

Dealers’ Licences to use the designation	
“ Tuberculin Tested ”	1

The milk pasteurising plant at Market Street ceased to operate during the year. The Proprietor now purchases bottled pasteurised milk from a plant outside the area. Samples from the source are reported upon satisfactorily.

Ice Cream.

No ice cream is now manufactured in the town and there are 3 vans plying in the area. No action in respect of contraventions of the Heat Treatment Regulations has been necessary against any of the 34 registered retailers.

Food Premises.

Inspections are carried out of premises and vehicles retailing food but no statutory action was necessary to enforce the Regulations.

OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES

Rodent Control and Pest Destruction.

As stated in previous reports, the Department is responsible for a continuous effort to control the rodent and other pest nuisances in the district.

The Councils’ refuse tip, sewage disposal works, and pumping stations were regularly visited and evidence of infection, however small was quickly noticed and the necessary action taken.

The sewers were treated during the year and apart from two minor infestations were found to be in a very satisfactory state.

At the commencement of the year, Mr. Dunk was engaged for two days in each week on rodent control but in April further rents were added to his collections and the time spent in rodent control was consequently reduced to one day per week. At this time the public were encouraged to carry out their own disinfestations with packets of Warfarin obtainable free of charge from my office. This method continues and is working satisfactorily.

Housing.

Action Taken.

(a) Houses demolished.									
As a result of formal or informal procedure under									
Sec. 17(1) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
(b) Unfit houses closed.									
Under Sec. 16(1) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
(c) Unfit houses made fit.									
After informal action	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
After formal action (a) Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Number of Inspections made.

Complaints received	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	41
Complaint investigated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	41
Complaints justified	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32
Housing Defects—Public Health and Housing Acts									
Inspections and revisits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	184
Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Tents, vans and sheds	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	49
Factories (mechanical power)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Factories (non-mechanical power)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Butchers' Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Fishmongers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Other Food Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	55
Caf.s, Restaurants, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Ice Cream Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Piggeries (and other animals not domestic)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Miscellaneous visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	70
Disinfestation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Water Supply	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Public Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Schools	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Smoke Abatement	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Infectious Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Food Vehicles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Interviews at office (Housing Management and Public Health)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1976

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

Part I.

Under the provisions of the Factories Act, 1937 the District Council is the authority responsible for enforcing the provisions

regarding sanitary accommodation in all factories and, in addition, the provision with respect to cleanliness, overcrowding, workroom temperature and ventilators and floor drainage in all factories where mechanical power is not used.

The following particulars are those prescribed on the administration of the above Acts:—

Premises (1)	No. on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspect- ions (3)	Written Notice (4)	Prosecu- tions (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	4	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	43	17	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworks premises)	12	—	—	—

Cases in which defects were found:—

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remed- ied (3)	To HM Insp. (4)	By HM. Insp. (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	—	3	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	3	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
	6	6	—	6	—

Part VIII

Outworkers ... Nil

Statutory Notices

Number of Statutory Notices issued for abatement or abolition of nuisances.

	Served	Complied with
Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93	—	—
Housing Act, 1959, Section 9	3	3
Food and Drugs Act, 1938/1955	—	—
	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 3

Legal Proceedings

No legal proceedings were taken during the year.

Disinfections

Steam disinfection of bedding, clothing, etc., may still be carried out, by arrangement, at the Aldershot or Farnham Hospitals.

Number of premises disinfected after infectious disease in the Urban District ... 1

Housing Management

No new council houses became available for letting during the year but 18 casual vacancies occurred, comprising 7 aged-persons dwellings, 7 three-bedroom houses, and 4 two-bedroom flats.

Of the 18 families rehoused, five were from slum clearance properties, and six exchanges from other council accommodation were permitted.

One exchange from private property to a council house was allowed.

There were 41 new private houses made available for occupation during the year under review.

I would like to conclude my report with an expression of thanks to our Medical Officer of Health for his cordial co-operation with us during the year.

I record my thanks to Mr. M. G. Worthington and Mr. V. R. Dunk for their help and loyalty and to colleagues in other departments for their helpful co-operation.

Finally to the Chairman of the Council, Councillor A. G. Finnimore, the Chairman of the Health, Housing and Estates Committee, Councillor E. T. Hutley, and all members of the Council for their confidence and support.

DUDLEY M. LING,

Chief Public Health Inspector and
Housing Manager.

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